

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.(previously presented): A cable modem system comprising:

a cable modem termination system for connecting a CATV center to a CATV transmission line;

a cable modem for connecting a subscriber terminal to the CATV transmission line; and

a DHCP server for dynamically allocating an IP address to the subscriber terminal by transmitting and receiving DHCP messages to and from the subscriber terminal through the cable modem,

the cable modem termination system having a DHCP server address notifying portion for notifying the cable modem of a DHCP server address, and

the cable modem having a DHCP relay agent for relaying the DHCP messages as a relay agent, an IP address detector for detecting the IP address from the DHCP message to the subscriber terminal, an IP address storage for storing the IP address, and a packet filtering portion for discarding a packet having a source IP address other than the IP address stored in the IP address storage when the packet is received from the subscriber terminal.

2.(original): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 1 wherein if the subscriber terminal is in a state where an IP address is unallocated by the DHCP server, the packet filtering portion discards a packet having the source IP address other than a predetermined initial IP address when the packet is received from the subscriber terminal.

3.(original): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cable modem has a lease time storage for storing a lease time of the IP address dynamically allocated to the subscriber terminal by the DHCP message, and clears the IP address stored in the IP address storage after the lease time has expired to make the subscriber terminal be in a state where the IP address is unallocated.

4.(original): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the cable modem has a lease time storage for storing a lease time of the IP address dynamically allocated to the subscriber terminal by the DHCP message, and clears the IP address stored in the IP address storage after the lease time has expired to make the subscriber terminal be in a state where the IP address is unallocated.

5.(original): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cable modem has a release message detector for detecting a DHCP release message transmitted by the subscriber terminal in order to release the allocated IP address, and clears the IP address stored in the IP address storage when the DHCP release message is detected to make the subscriber terminal be in a state where the IP address is unallocated.

6.(original): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the cable modem has a release message detector for detecting a DHCP release message transmitted by the subscriber terminal in order to release the allocated IP address, and clears the IP address stored in the IP address storage when the DHCP release message is detected to make the subscriber terminal be in a state where the IP address is unallocated.

7.(currently amended): A cable modem system comprising:

a cable modem termination system for connecting a CATV center to a CATV transmission line;

a first cable modem for connecting a subscriber terminal to the CATV transmission line; and

a DHCP server for dynamically allocating an IP address to the subscriber terminal by transmitting and receiving DHCP messages to and from the subscriber terminal through the first cable modem,

the cable modem termination system having a DHCP server address notifying portion for notifying the first cable modem of a DHCP server address, and

the first cable modem having a DHCP relay agent for relaying the DHCP messages as a relay agent, an IP address detector for detecting the IP address from the DHCP message, an IP address storage for storing the IP address, and a packet filtering portion for discarding a packet having a source IP address other than the IP address stored in the IP address storage when the packet is received from the subscriber terminal,

wherein the first cable modem has a subscriber terminal address notifying portion for notifying the cable modem termination system of the IP address allocated to the subscriber terminal, and

the cable modem termination system has an allocated address manager for storing the IP address notified by the first cable modem corresponding to an address of the first cable modem itself, and for renewing its storage and notifying a second ~~another~~ cable modem to clear the stored IP address thereby making a subscriber terminal connected to the second ~~other~~ cable

modem be in a state of having an unallocated IP address when the IP address is already stored by a notification from the first cable modem.

8.(currently amended): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the cable modem, being a first cable modem, has a subscriber terminal address notifying portion for notifying the cable modem termination system of the IP address allocated to the subscriber terminal, and

the cable modem termination system has an allocated address manager for storing the IP address notified by the first cable modem corresponding to an address of the first cable modem itself, and for renewing its storage and notifying a second ~~another~~ cable modem to clear the stored IP address thereby making a subscriber terminal connected to the second ~~other~~ cable modem be in a state of having an unallocated IP address when the IP address is already stored by a notification from the first cable modem.

9.(previously presented): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cable modem connects one or more subscriber terminals to the CATV transmission line.

10.(currently amended): A cable modem system where a cable modem termination system connects a CATV center to a cable modem via a CATV transmission line and the cable modem connecting a subscriber terminal, said cable modem system comprising:

a DHCP server for dynamically allocating an IP address to the subscriber terminal by transmitting and receiving DHCP messages to and from the subscriber terminal through ~~[[the]]~~ a first cable modem;

a DHCP server address notifying portion for notifying the first cable modem of a DHCP server address; and

the first cable modem including

a DHCP relay agent for relaying the DHCP messages through the cable modem as a relay agent,

an IP address detector for detecting the IP address from the DHCP message to the subscriber terminal, and

a subscriber terminal address notifying portion for notifying the cable modem termination system of the IP address allocated to the subscriber terminal,

the cable modem termination system including

an allocated address manager for storing the IP address notified by the first cable modem in correspondence with an address of the first cable modem itself, and notifying ~~another~~ a second cable modem to clear the IP address, which the ~~other~~ second cable modem previously detected, thereby making a subscriber terminal connected to the ~~other~~ second cable modem be in a state of having an unallocated IP address.

11.(new): The cable modem system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said IP address detector detects the IP address from the DHCP message sent to the subscriber terminal when the DHCP message is transmitted to the subscriber terminal.